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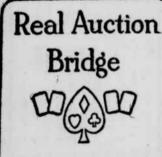
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Two American Women's Pictures and Impressions of the War in France-A Good History of the Gridiron Club.

A HILLTOP ON THE MARNE. Being Let-ters Written June 3-September 8, 1914. By Mildred Aldrich. 18mo. pp. 186. Houghton Millin Co.

and felt by Her leaves upon the reader an impression of fortitude and grim determination rather than of suffering and pity. It is the mood of France at war with which she has become as one. Technically the book is a work of art, crowded out the post-prandial star of standing apart, with its inspiration, in other days, who had to get his efforts all the long row of this author's beau- across the guest table without the aid all the long row of this author's beau-tifully finished volumes. And it is typi-cally French art in its unerring elim-ination of the unessential, its dextrous interest of the unessential, its dextrous of the control of the unessential of the control of the contr ination of the unessential, its dextrous score by giving the use of the minimum of lines, of in the way of wit, humor, fancy, Joe Miller sneedotes or serious eloquence. At dinners of the sportive sort he had to pay in other ways. The Clover Club, all this volume opens is like the pay in other ways. an etching, infallibly suggesting all that is not expressed of mood and atng, moreover, with remarques of no less value. As, for instance:

I remember especially the steadybrowed faces of the women; and also the small but significant fact that every one of them had remem-bered to bring her dog. The biggest of these amiable companions had to take their chance of seeing what they could through the for-est of human legs; but every one that was portable was snugly lodged in the bend of an elbow, and from this safe perch scores and scores of small, serious muzzles. blunt or sharp, smooth or woolly, brown or gray, or white or black or brindled, looked out on the scene with the quiet awareness of the Paris dog.

Women whose faces look like memorial medals-idealized images of what they were in the flesh. And the masks of some of the menthose queer tormented Gallic masks, crushed-in and squat and a little satyr-like-like the bronzes of the Naples Museum, burnt and twisted from their baptism of fire. But none of these faces reveals a personal preoccupation: they are looking, one and all, at France erect on her borders.

The faces of a martial race at war, fighting for its own-Mrs. Wharton is say that the struggle has given them never present, such a document will beauty. "It is a wonderful example of be beyond the reach of future his-

to the little corner of the Lost Prov-inces that is French again, Mrs. Whar-discretion Mr. Dunn occasionally gives tor was struck by the silence, the invisibility, the mystery of modern war between battles. She draws a wondrous picture of the new beauty of Rheims Cathedral, with its tone values left by flame and smoke; she makes us see the ruin that has been created in town and country, and the quiet energy that is already restoring what has been lost. She visits bosnitzle, the wounded and smoke; the makes us see the ruin that has been created in town and country, and the quiet energy that is already restoring what has been lost. She visits bosnitzle, the wounded and smoke; the makes us see the ruin that has been created in town and country, and the quiet energy that is already restoring what has been lost. She visits bosnitzle, the wounded and smoke; the makes us see the ruin that has been created in town and country, and the quiet energy that is already restoring what has been lost. She visits bosnitzle, the wounded and supporter of the since Minister, Mr. Wu, one of the famous tilt with Senator Foraker the Chinese Minister, Mr. Wu, one of the famous tilt with Senator Foraker the cleverest men who ever spoke at the cleverest men who ever s ton was struck by the silence, the in- the reader that more intimate vie

man, all this is splendid reading, and must remain a memory vouchsafed to but few. There were days of anxiety of suggestions of the necessity of immediate flight—but Miss Aldrich stuck to her books, most cherished of her household gods. As Mrs. Wharton gives us a picture of the capital in the days of coming war, so does she give us one of its approach in the heart of the country, in a place so small, so quiet and insignificant that the gazetteers with the flouse and in insignificant that the gazetteers are finalle of Marison, illuminated by an Irish bull. Seated at against him; he had been beaten by only 200 votes, and "on the whole, was only 200 votes, and "on the whole, was or representing Mr. Wilson, then Governor-elect of New Jersey, and Miss President seemed to lose all power to convince or to please. He rubbed everyone way.

Yet he had wit and unbounded oratorical felicity. A few days before he spoke at the Gridiron dinner he had only man fitted to be the National Voice." Vox et practical felicity. A few days before he spoke at the Gridiron dinner he had only 200 votes, and "on the whole, was only 200 votes, and "on the whole must remain a memory vouchsafed to and insignificant that the gazetteers know it not, the railroad scorns it, and probably only the military maps deign to take notice of its existence. Her called upon this week to open a concalled upon this week to open a conpictures of the region and its inhabi-tants in the untroubled days of June President Cleveland never attended

THE GRIDIRON CLUB.

-the most famous dining club in So far as Mrs. Wharton herself is the United States—is of necessity to concerned, this record of things seen furnish a record of the changes which of Philadelphia, after which the Grid-iron Club was modelled, used to haze its speakers unmercifully. Interrup-

tions-pertinent or impertinent-chor-uses to drown out his voice, boisterous horseplay at his expense, were thought to be the height of after-dinner humor. The Gridiron Club pursued this method for a while, but, to its credit, soon dropped it for a humaner form of satirical entertainment. Burlesques in which the members of the club took part formed the basis of the evening' fun, and the guests were asked to laug at impersonations deftly ridiculing them and their foibles.

Mr. Dunn's book tells the story of the Gridiron Club from its first dinner. in May, 1885, to its thirtieth anniversary, in 1915. What intelligence, tact and good taste can do toward creating a reputation such as the club now enovs would make an interesting ex-Another marginal impression, a more hibit, even if the club had had its local significant one: faces seen in the city's habitation in some minor inland city ibit, even if the club had had its local and the purveyor of amusement had been obliged to deal with scanty local material. But it has been the Gridiron Club's good fortune to make its career at the national capital, to burconstantly studying them, and, at the front, finds that it is not too much to rule of the club is that reporters are the rapidity with which purpose models to the human countenance. Almost all of restrained intercourse of such occathe human countenance. Almost all of them have the same look of quiet authority: it is as though all 'nerwant flashes out, and a better judgworth,' fussiness, oddities, meannesses and vulgarities had been burnt away in a great flame of self-dedication."

All along this front from Parks a great flame of self-dedication." guarded public acts and utterances.

All along this front, from Dunkerque The club's rule has been broken in one

There was the riddle of Harrison, lluminated by an Irish bull. Seated at

of last year are charming. They may acquire a historic value, for we are told that after this war is over nothing will be the same again. Still, Mrs. Wharton saw the peasant returning to his soil the moment it was cleared of enternies; and the persistence of the peasant returning to the enternies of Europe in the ways of their poses. He was not at ease on such informal occasions, could not exchange analysis of Europe in the ways of their antries of Europe in the ways of their banter with his critics, as Harrison and Roosevelt could, and also felt that the



career at the national capital, to burlesque events and situations which were of universal interest, and to put on its skits under the eyes of the chief actors in those events and situations. Presidents, Cabinet officers, Ambassadors, Senators, Representatives in Congress, men in the limelight in all professions, have been its guests and have suffered in person from its raillery. A complete record of the doings at the dinners for thirty years back would be a historical document of the greatest value. Since the first rule of the club is that reporters are never present, such a document will be heavend the reach of future his fervent admirer met him in one of the laws aid: 'How dare ye quote Latin on the shoulder and said: 'How dare ye quote Latin on the thoroughly at home on such occasions. The mass at horocants with which had made him so many enemies had full guage?''

Whenever Colonel Roosevelt was present something striking could be expected. He never dodged a challenge trailing tradition now preserves the memory of his speeches. Mr. Dunn recalls one characteristic saying of Reed's. It was in the winter of 1896, when he was a hopeful candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination. As he himself told the story, a form the reach of future his fervent admirer met him in one of the Cuba. Senator Hanna, in spite of the language trailers.

ruin that has been created in fown and country, and the quiet energy that is already restoring what has been lost. She visits hospitals, the wounded and their nurses. She gives us a glimpse of the confident affection between officers and men, and she finds that the new France that has arisen is but the old France which has dug down to the bedrock of its national character. A truly admirable piece of work.

Miss Aldrich saw the romance of war, and has made the most of it in these fascinating, unmistakably spontaneous letters of hers. The shadow of war's tragedy almost fell upon the six gables of that little house of hers, then the tide turned. The invader was atopped at her thresheld. Her experiences with retreating British soldiers and food and baths—the tribute paid to Woman in war time by a grateful comman, as all this is splendid reading, and man, all this is splendid reading, and more unpopular in washington than he was. In his personal that he washington than he was. In his personal man, and a supporter of the Manchu dynasty."

Wresident McKinley's relations with danchu dynasty."

President McKinley's relations with danchu dynasty."

President McKinley's relations with denoth of the dub with sits. Senator Hanna, when the did not figure much into context with him in an official catellow personal interaction and the sate of the club with sits. Senator Hanna, when was a constant and highly popular guest, was a better target for jests fat the expense of the administration, and one enjoyed them more than he did. About the only story in which the KKinley's relations with danchus dynasty."

President McKinley's relations with danchus dynasty."

President McKinley's relations with danchus dynasty.

President McKinley's relations with danchus dynasty."

President McKinley's relations with dinor the gub were extremely amical in a gerrymandered district, with a people will think was singularly pro-

-and probably will."

The Chinese Minister, Mr. Wu, one of the famous tilt with Senator Forsker

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Marriage, Stevenson says somewhere, with that air of his of saying something bright, is a field of battle, and not a bed of roses. This idea is the text, as you might say, of "These Twain." The moral of the book, if it were the sweet old fashion now to hook on morals at the end, would be found in a line in it which concludes, "the disastrous and yet heautiful infelicity of things." In between flickers again the grim smile of the Five Towns.

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